

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 07930 201151Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 SAM-01 /049 W

----- 006398

O 201048Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7587

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 793

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT
OSORIO COMMENTS ON PRESENT ATTITUDE OF MILITARY

1. WHEN HE LUNCHEDED WITH ME PRIVATELY OCTOBER 19, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY OSORIO COMMENTED THAT THE APPOINTMENT*OF GENERAL GUTIERREZ MELLADO AS FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN VERY WELL RECEIVED BY THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE SPANISH ARMY OFFICER CORPS WHERE HE ENJOYED AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION AS A SOLDIER AND AS A PERSON WITH LIBERAL IDEAS. REFERRING TO HIM AS THE QUOTE MOST INTELLIGENT UNQUOTE OF THE LIEUTENANT GENERALS, OSORIO ADMITTED THAT THE APPOINTMENT HAD CAUSED CONSIDERABLE HEARTBURN AMONGST A SMALL NUMBER OF THE LIEUTENANT GENERALS INCLUDING CAPT GNERAL PRADA CANILLAS AT BURGOS, WHO OBJECTED NOT ONLY TO HIS QUOTE LIBERAL TENDENCIES UNQUOTE BUT ALSO TO THE FACT AS ONE OF THE MOST JUNIOR LIEUTENANT GENRALS HE HAD RECEIVED THIS IMPORTANT POSITION. OSORIO BELIEVED HOWEVER THAT THE OVERWHELMINGLY FAVORABLE REACTION FROM THE COLONELS ON HOW HE WOULDKEEP THIS WHOLE QUESTION IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE.

2. TURNING TO THE DEPARTURE OF GENERAL SANTIAGO, OSORIO SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF SANTIAGO'S LACK OF SYMPATHY FOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 07930 201151Z

CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE REFORM PROGRAM, THE PRIME MINISTER

HAD DECIDED TO ASK SANTIAGO TO STEP DOWN (IT WAS NOT SANTIAGO WHO TOOK THE INITIATIVE AS HAD BEEN REPORTED.) SANTIAGO COMPLIED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S REQUEST WITHOUT DIFFICULTY. HOWEVER, HE THEN DECIDED TO SEND A LETTER TO ALMOST ALL OF THE THREE-STAR OFFICERS IN THE ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE EXPLAINING HIS RESIGNATION AS BEING DUE TO HIS LACK OF SUPPORT FOR THE REFORM PROGRAM. OSORIO COMMENTED THAT SANTIAGO'S LETTER WAS FULL OF INACCURACIES PARTICULARLY AS IT RELATED TO HIS STATEMENTS THAT HE HAD STRONGLY OPPOSED CERTAIN PARTS OF THE REFORM PROGRAM. IN FACT, SAID OSORIO, HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF SANTIAGO TAKING EXCEPTION TO ANYTHING IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETINGS.

3. SHORTLY AFTER THIS LETTER HAD BEEN SENT, ULTRA-RIGHTIST FORMER CHIEF OF THE CIVIL GUARD GENERAL INIESTA CANO HAD PUT HEAVY PRESSURE ON THE THREE SERVICE MINISTERS OF THE ARMY IN SOLIDARITY. THIS HAD PROVOKED THE MINISTER OF THE ARMY WHO, WITH AGREEMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, IMMEDIATELY CALLED A MEETING OF THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF THE ARMY TO START RETIREMENT PROCEEDINGS AGAINST BOTH SANTIAGO AND INIESTA CANO. IT WAS ABOUT THIS TIME THAT THE MINISTERS OF THE ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE HAD SENT LETTERS TO ALL THE THREE-STAR OFFICERS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE SERVICES SETTING FORTH THE FACTS IN THE SANTIAGO CASE. ACCORDING TO OSORIO AND CONTRARY TO WHAT THE PRESS HAD ALLEGED, THESE LETTERS HAD NOT BEEN RECALLED.

3. AT THE MEETING OF THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF THE ARMY, IT HAD BEEN UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT PROCEEDINGS SHOULD BEGIN TO RETIRE BOTH SANTIAGO AND INIESTA CANO. ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN A MAJORITY VOTE (TEN TO EIGHT) THAT THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF THE ARMY WOULD PLACE THE RETIRMENT PROPOSAL BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, THE MINISTER OF THE ARMY ON HIS OWN DECIDED THAT HE WOULD RAISE THE MATTER AT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING. THIS WAS DONE AND AUTHORIZATION WAS GIVEN TO START THE PROCEDURE AGAINST SANTIAGO AND INIESTA CANO. IT WAS AT THIS POINT THAT MATTERS WENT WRONG. THE MINISTER OF THE ARMY IN CONVEYING INFORMATION TO THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION REFERRED TO A ROYAL DECREE HAVING BEEN ISSUED WHEREAS IT HAD ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 07930 201151Z

BEEN A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ACTION.

4. ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECOGNIZED THAT ADMISSION OF A MISTAKE COULD BE TAKEN AS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS THE GOVERNMENT FELT IT COULD NOT IMPLICATE THE KING IN THIS ACTION BY REFERENCE TO A ROYAL DECREE AND THEREFORE HAD DECIDED TO ADMIT THE ERROR. IN FACT NO ROYAL DECREE IS NECESSARY AND ALL THAT IS REQUIRED NOW IS FOR THE OFFICERS

CONCERNED TO BE HEARD BY A SPECIALLY DESIGNATED OFFICER
AND FOR THE MINISTER OF THE ARMY TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION.
OSORIO THOUGHT THAT THE DECISION WOULD BE TO RETIRE
INIESTA CANO BUT NOT PROCEED FURTHER AGAINST SANTIAGO.
HE
MADE CLEAR THAT HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE ERROR IN
PROCEDURE BOTH GENERALS WOULD HAVE BEEN RETIRED.

5. OSORIO COMMENTED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WAS CERTAIN FAR-RIGHT
ELEMENTS IN THE ARMY THAT WERE UNEASY, THE VAST MAJORITY
REMAIN ABSOLUTELY LOYAL TO THE KING AND GO ALONG WITH THE
REFORM PROGRAM. EVEN THE GENERALS COMMANDING THE ARMORED
DIVISION IN MADRID, MILANS DEL BOSCH, WHO IS REGARDED AS
FAR-RIGHTIST, IS CONSIDERED ENTIRELY LOYAL TO THE KING.
MOREOVER, OSORIO SAID, ONE OF THE THREE COMMANDING COLONELS
OF THAT DIVISION, PINILLAS, IS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL
PATRONS OF UMD.
STABLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, ARMED FORCES, POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT REFORM, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID07930
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760393-0621
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761033/aaaabcmq.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <25 AUG 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT OSORIO COMMENTS ON PRESENT ATTITUDE OF MILITARY
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SP, (OSORIO GARCIA, ALFONSO), (MELLADO, GUTIERREZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006